

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 /080 W
----- 103308

R 181900Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5239

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO CA

SUBJECT: CANADI, DEFENSE DEBATE

REF: OTTAWA 3967

1. LOCAL PRESS (OTTAWA JOURNAL) IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "NEW DEFENCE BUDGET FIGHTING INFLATION" HAS POINTED OUT THE TOLL THAT INFLATION IS TAKING IN DEFENSE BUDGET.

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, " IS GOING TO GIVE MORE MONEY NEXT YEAR TO A MILITARY THAT HAS FEWER PERSONNEL... THE ADDITIONAL MONEY, WHILE APPEARING LARGE ON PAPER, WILL NOT PROVIDE MUCH OF A PUSH TOWARD...GOAL OF A SMALLER BUT HIGHLY MODERN FORCE. IN FACT... ARMED FORCES WILL BE DOING LITTLE MORE THAN HOLDING THEIR OWN AGAINST INFLATION."

3. ARTICLE CITES INCREASE OF DEFENSE BUDGET TO 2.78 BILLION DOLLARS WHICH WILL ALLOW A RETURN TO NORMALCY AFTER APRIL 1 "WITH TASKS SCALED DOWN TO MEET THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL." ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY REPORTING "THE CABINET IS NOW AGONIZING HOW AND WHERE THE SCALING DOWN IS TO BE DONE AND IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION WITHIN A MONTH."

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PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, POLICIES, TROOP REDUCTIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA04110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740368-0832
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741226/aaaaavpi.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 OTTAWA 3967
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADI, DEFENSE DEBATE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005